



AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) An image recognition apparatus for preventing counterfeiting of bank notes and valuable securities, comprising:

a recognition processing portion which carries out a recognition process on supplied image data using dictionary data stored in a storage portion to determine whether or not said supplied image matches said dictionary data; and

means for writing said dictionary data into said storage portion;

wherein said dictionary data stored in said storage portion is erased at least at the time when the power is not on, and said storage portion does not include a non-volatile memory for storing said dictionary data.

2. (Previously Presented) The image recognition apparatus of Claim 1, wherein said storage portion is constructed from a volatile memory, and wherein the erasing of said dictionary data is carried out automatically in accordance with the cutting off of the power supply.

3. (Currently Amended) ~~The image recognition apparatus of Claim 1,~~ An image recognition apparatus for preventing counterfeiting of bank notes and valuable securities, comprising:

a recognition processing portion which carries out a recognition process on supplied image data using dictionary data stored in a storage portion to determine whether or not said supplied image matches said dictionary data; and

means for writing said dictionary data into said storage portion;

wherein said storage portion is constructed from a rewriteable memory, and further comprising means for actively rewriting ~~erasing~~ said dictionary data stored in said storage portion ~~at a prescribed timing~~, in response to a termination signal.

4. (Previously Presented) The image recognition apparatus of any one of Claim 1 through Claim 3, further comprising means for monitoring the connection status of said storage portion.

5. (Currently Amended) An image processing apparatus, comprising:

an image recognition apparatus comprising:

a recognition processing portion which carries out a recognition process on supplied image data using dictionary data stored in a storage portion to determine whether or not said supplied image matches said dictionary data; and

means for writing said dictionary data into said storage portion;

wherein said dictionary data stored in said storage portion is erased at least at the time when the power is not on, and said storage portion does not include a non-volatile memory for storing said dictionary data; and

means for performing a copy-prohibiting process when a determination of a copy-prohibited object is made based on an output from said image recognition apparatus.

~~for preventing counterfeiting of bank notes and valuable securities, comprising:~~

~~a recognition processing portion which carries out a recognition process on supplied image data using dictionary data stored in a storage portion to determine whether or not said supplied image matches said dictionary data; and~~

~~means for writing said dictionary data into said storage portion; wherein said dictionary data stored in said storage portion is erased at least at the time when the power is not on.~~

6. (Previously Presented) The image processing apparatus of Claim 5, wherein said storage portion is constructed from a volatile memory, and wherein the erasing of said dictionary data is carried out automatically in accordance with the cutting off of the power supply.

7. (Currently Amended) An ~~The~~ image processing apparatus comprising: of Claim 5,

an image recognition apparatus comprising:

a recognition processing portion which carries out a recognition process on supplied image data using dictionary data stored in a storage portion to determine

whether or not said supplied image matches said dictionary data; and

means for writing said dictionary data into said storage portion;

wherein said storage portion is constructed from a rewriteable memory, and further comprising means for actively rewriting ~~erasing~~ said dictionary data stored in said storage portion ~~at a prescribed timing~~. In response to a termination signal; and

means for performing a copy-prohibiting process when a determination of a copy-prohibited object is made based on an output from said image recognition apparatus.

8      Cancelled.